

Conservation Corner

May 2020

On November 6, 2018 Los Angeles County voters approved Measure W. Measure W, also known as the Safe, Clean Water Program, is a property tax levied on property owners in Los Angeles County to help fund aspects of stormwater compliance and project costs placed on cities as a result of the NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit.

This funding mechanism will be managed by Los Angeles County, who receives 10% of the collected funds for management, administration, staffing, auditing and education. Local jurisdictions will receive 40% of the funds collected within their boundaries for stormwater pollution prevention compliance activities, totaling approximately \$580,000 for the City of La Verne.

The other 50% will be dispersed to watershed area groups within the county for large scale regional projects or technical resources and scientific studies, based around obtaining information to most efficiently utilize the funds for large projects. These funds will be distributed based on a Stormwater Investment Plan, compiled by Watershed Area Steering Committees, who decide which projects within their respective watersheds will be funded. The City of La Verne is part of the Upper San Gabriel Valley River Watershed. Although meetings have been ongoing for several months now, as members voted on positions within the Committee, worked out administration processes and listened to presentations on various projects within the region, the Committee is now ready to begin voting to prioritize projects. Public Works Administration staff has a seat and vote on the Committee. More information will be coming in the future as to whether the scientific study, technical resources program applications and project, submitted on behalf of La Verne will receive funding.

On average, property owners in La Verne are paying approximately \$100-\$200 for these activities. Costs will vary, based on the amount of concrete, asphalt, pervious landscape, size of home and pool, etcetera.

For more information on the Safe Clean Water Program, please visit <https://safecleanwaterla.org/>

